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From: Chaz Cirame [ccirame@alec.org]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 11:27 AM
To: Bateman, Sen. D.O.; Biondi, Asm. D.O.; Bucco, Sen. D.O.; Cardinale, Sen. D.O.; DeCroce, Asm. D.O.; Oroho, Sen. D.O.; Webber, Asm. D.O.
Cc: Jonathan Williams
Subject: FW: Institutions Matter: Can New Jersey Reverse Course?
Attachments: Can-New-Jersey-Reverse-Course-v1.0.pdf; Tax Transparency-A Model Bill.doc; 06 - Council on Efficient Government - Model Bill.pdf; 07 - Public School Financial Transparency Act.pdf; ALEC 72 Hour Budget Timeout.doc; ALEC Supermajority Act.doc; ALEC's Taxpayer Transparency Act.pdf; An Act Relating to Performance Audits of Governmental Entities.doc; An Act Relating to Recovery Audits for Government Overpayments of Tax Dollars.doc; Budget Audits.doc; Revenue Forecasting.doc

Dear NJ ALEC Members,

I wanted to share this new study **Institutions Matter: Can New Jersey Reverse Course?** from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University with our ALEC members in New Jersey. I have also attached 10 model bills our Tax & Fiscal Policy Task Force Director Jonathan Williams has put together as a budget reform tool kit. These bills are currently being used in several states by ALEC members as part of a reform agenda. The tool kit serves as an excellent next step/ addendum to the study and offers a lot of basic good government ideas that should be able to find bipartisan support. Jonathan Williams is available at jwilliams@alec.org or 202-742-8533 to help with these kind of efforts. As always please feel to reach out me for anything ALEC can be of assistance with.

All my best,
Chaz

Chaz J. Cirame

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From: Mercatus Center at George Mason University [mailto:mercatus@gmu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 11:36 AM
To: Chaz Cirame
Subject: Institutions Matter: Can New Jersey Reverse Course?

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INSTITUTIONS MATTER: Can New Jersey Reverse Course?

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George Mason University


Institutions Matter: Can New Jersey Reverse Course?

Today, New Jersey faces the most severe fiscal and economic crisis in its history.

Years of spending growth, increasing mandates, and expanding use of intergovernmental aid and debt have inflated the size and cost of government, leading to dramatic increases in taxation at all levels.

The state's recovery hinges on reforming rules for taxing and spending -- in short, re-establishing fiscal prudence, and reducing the size and scope of government.

This paper from Eileen Norcross and Frederic Sautet of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University examines the history of the public sector in New Jersey, including the relationships between the federal, state, and local governments, discussing how the loss of the "old time fiscal religion" has resulted in unmanageable budget deficits and a weakened state economy.

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New Jersey Flag

The authors demonstrate why the state should:

- Reintroduce competition to local government,
- Cap spending through a Constitutional Tax and Expenditure Limit,
- Reform tax policy to favor economic growth and stability,
- Lower the cost of government to improve services and increase accountability, and
- Clarify the "education clause" in the state constitution.

The paper is available at newjersey.mercatus.org.

In order to deal with a host of serious institutional problems, New Jersey has to undertake significant and meaningful reforms. Reform cannot simply tinker with the present framework by offering marginal changes such as increasing property tax rebates, offering tax breaks or targeted tax credits, or finessing aid formulas. These actions will only mask the deep-seated flaws in the current system.

For more information about the Mercatus Center, [click here](#).

Please feel free to forward this email to interested parties. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Rothschild at the Mercatus Center at 703-993-4898 or drothsch@gmu.edu.

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